

Chapter 3

The Soldier— Foundation of the Army

Basic Organizational Structure of the Army

Missions are executed or carried out by elements or organizations of different sizes within the Army. The individual soldier—the basic building block of all Army organizations—may be a commissioned officer, noncommissioned officer (NCO) or enlisted soldier. See appendix A for the basic structure of the Army's forces.

Army Personnel Rank Structure

Officers, enlisted soldiers and Department of the Army civilians all swear or affirm solemn oaths. These oaths include the pledge “to support and defend the Constitution of the United States” and to “bear true faith and allegiance to the same.” This codicile is the foundation of the Army's ethos, which can be summarized as “duty, honor, country.”

★ **Army Rank Structure.** Army rank insignia are displayed in appendix B.

★ **Army Branch Insignia.** Soldiers serve in various combat, combat support and combat service support branches. See appendix C for branch insignia.

Commissioned Officers

With their commissions approved by Congress, officers are representatives of the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces—the President of the United States. The commission serves as the basis for an officer's legal authority. Commissioned officers are expected to prudently

and courageously exercise finely-honed judgment in the performance of their duties to command soldiers, establish Army policy, and manage Army resources. They are generalists as well as specialists who assume progressively broader and greater responsibilities over the course of their service.

Warrant Officers

Warrant officers are highly specialized, single-track specialty officers who receive their authority from the Secretary of the Army upon their initial appointment. However, Title 10, USC, authorizes the commissioning of warrant officers (WO1) upon promotion to chief warrant officer (CW2). These commissioned warrant officers are direct representatives of the President of the United States. They derive their authority from the same source as commissioned officers but serve only in their technical field. Warrant officers can and do command detachments, units, activities and vessels as well as lead, coach, train and counsel subordinates. As leaders and technical experts, they provide valuable skills, guidance and expertise to commanders and organizations in their particular field.

Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs)

NCOs provide the first-line leadership in the Army. Like all enlisted soldiers, NCOs are sworn not only to support and defend the Constitution, but also to obey the orders of their officers. They derive their authority from law, as well as from regulations and tradition. This authority allows them to direct soldiers, take actions required to accomplish the mission, and enforce good order

and discipline. NCOs execute the Army's missions every day. As the traditional "backbone" of the Army, NCOs transform recruits into teams of soldiers, and teach young lieutenants many of the basics of being an officer. NCOs also remain in a specific area of military expertise as they progress to higher rank.

Junior Enlisted Soldiers

The Army's strength is the American soldier. He or she will always be the one responsible for taking and holding the ground in support of U.S. foreign policy, mission, goals and objectives. Even with sophisticated technology and advanced equipment, an Army cannot fight, sustain and win a war without individual, quality soldiers. Soldiers are the essence of the American spirit: courageous in war, compassionate in peace, and committed to the defense of the nation.

Department of the Army Civilians

As members of the executive branch of the federal government, Department of the Army (DA)

civilians are part of the Army. They derive their authority from a variety of sources, such as commanders, supervisors, Army regulations and Title 5, USC. DA civilians' authority is job-related: they normally exercise authority related to their positions. The members of the Civilian Corps are an indispensable part of the Army—only through the integrated efforts of dedicated civilians and soldiers can the Army accomplish its assigned functions and make the most effective use of its resources.

